

**JOINT SESSION OF THE JASPER COUNTY COUNCIL AND JASPER COUNTY  
COMMISSIONERS  
DECEMBER 19, 2017**

The Jasper County Council and the Jasper County Board of Commissioners met this date at 6:00 P.M. C.S.T. in the Commissioners Room, Suite 202, of the Jasper County Courthouse located at 115 West Washington Street, Rensselaer, Indiana, with the following members present: Rein Bontreger, Stephen Jordan, Gerrit H. DeVries, Andrew Andree, Paul Norwine, Brett Risner, Kendell Culp, Richard Maxwell and James A. Walstra. Also present was Deputy Auditor Tina Porter. Let the record show that Gary Fritts was absent. Mr. Bontreger called the meeting to order and those present stood and recited the Pledge of Allegiance led by Mr. DeVries.

UMBAUGH: Susan Reed was present to go over handouts titled “Rating Overview & Financial Management Policy” and “Comprehensive Financial Management Policy”. Ms. Reed explained the ratings used by S&P. Also included in the packet was a rating comparison with other counties in the state. She then went over the following topics within the handout: Local Government General Obligation criteria, S & P Management Assessment, Budgeting and Long-Term Financial Planning, Transparency, Debt Policy, Reserve & Liquidity Policy, Reserve Levels and Plan/Policy Review & Update. She then talked about the Comprehensive Financial Management Policy. She asked the Council and Commissioners to evaluate the policy and send any feedback they may have to Auditor Kimberly Grow. The policy will need to be re-evaluated on an annual basis. The purpose of this is to ensure the County is able to meet its immediate and long-term financial objectives.

HONEYWELL / JAMES ZELLMAN / DAN HARSCH: Mr. Zellman and Mr. Harsch were present to discuss the energy savings plan. Mr. Culp stated that a provider has not been selected. Requests for proposals are due back by December 27, 2017. Mr. Zellman stated that the County will save money by completing the improvements in one large project as opposed to phases. Mr. Harsch then explained different funding options available to the County, such as loans, bonds, installment payment contracts and tax exempt leases. There was discussion about the issues with the Community Corrections building and completing the repairs as a stand-alone project. Mr. Culp discussed with the Council the possibility of requesting an additional appropriation in 2018 for money that was not used in 2017. This will be advertised for the January 2018 meeting.

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Rein O. Bontreger, President

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Kendell Culp, President

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James A. Walstra, Vice President

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Richard E. Maxwell, Member

ATTEST:

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Kimberly K. Grow, Auditor of Jasper County

## **REGULAR MEETING OF THE JASPER COUNTY COUNCIL DECEMBER 19, 2017**

The Jasper County Council met this date at 7:00 P.M. C.S.T. in the Commissioners Room, Suite 202, of the Jasper County Courthouse located at 115 West Washington Street, Rensselaer, Indiana, with the following members present: Rein Bontreger, Stephen Jordan, Gerrit H. DeVries, Andrew Andree, Paul Norwine and Brett Risner. Also present was Deputy Auditor Tina Porter. Let the record show that Gary Fritts was absent. Mr. Bontreger called the meeting to order and those present stood and recited the Pledge of Allegiance led by Mr. Jordan.

MINUTES: Mr. Andree made a motion to approve the minutes as presented from the November 21, 2017 meeting. Mr. Jordan seconded and the motion carried unanimously.

JAMES STRADLING / INDIAN TRAILS: Mr. Stradling was present and stated that the grant application due December 15, 2017 has been submitted. Newton and White Counties have each contributed \$100,000.00. Pulaski has contributed \$30,000.00. Indian Trails has not received a contribution from Carroll. They have received a few other small contributions and have a total of approximately \$250,000.00. Jasper County can contribute to the grant, but it will not be used as match money from the State. With the application, he also submitted approximately twenty letters of recommendation, one being from Jasper County's Economic Development Executive Director. He stated that students can cross county boundaries and school district lines. Mr. Bontreger told Mr. Stradling that he would like to see a budget and a list of the governing board. Mr. Stradling replied that the ten school superintendents make up his board and that he will email Mr. Bontreger his budget. Mr. Bontreger then stated that one of his concerns is that Kankakee Valley is not a part of Indian Trails. Mr. Norwine expressed concern with allocating money to Indian Trails considering the County's needs.

SHERIFF RISNER / DIANE BIRKY / COUNTY HEALTH INSURANCE: Sheriff Risner expressed concern regarding the impact of the increase in the employee's contribution for health insurance. He presented the Commissioners with a handout containing 2018 Insurance rates for Porter, Lake, Newton, Benton, White and LaPorte Counties. He stated that he has eleven employees actively seeking other employment due to the new health insurance rates. Ms. Birky read a letter aloud explaining some the things an employee of the Sheriff's Department may go through during a shift and talked about how dedicated they are and what a shame it would be to lose any of them because of the health insurance costs. Mr. DeVries informed Sheriff Risner that the Council is not the board that makes health insurance decisions, but rather approves the budget that is presented to them. There was discussion about a health insurance committee and the Council did agree that it would be a good idea.

AIRPORT TRANSFER: Mr. Norwine made a motion to approve a transfer in the amount of \$10,000.00 from Personal Services: Part-time employees, \$4,350.00 from Other Services and Charges: Matching Funds 2017, \$5,300.00 from Other Services and Charges: Utilities Gas and Electric and \$6,746.00 from Capital Outlays: Improvements for a total of \$26,396.00 to be transferred in to Rainy Day Fund. Mr. Andree seconded and the motion carried unanimously.

Mr. Seif mentioned that he is working with Indian Trails on setting up a 4-H Aviation Club.

ANIMAL CONTROL / TRANSFER: Mr. Risner made a motion to approve a transfer request in the amount of \$956.00 from County General Vehicle Expense to County General Part-Time Animal Control. Mr. DeVries seconded and the motion carried unanimously.

SALARY ORDINANCE: Mr. DeVries made a motion to approve the 2018 salary ordinance. Mr. Norwine seconded and the motion carried unanimously.

BOARD APPOINTMENTS: Mr. Jordan made a motion to approve the following board appointments. Mr. Andree seconded and the motion carried unanimously.

Alcohol Beverage Commission – Shelli Risner

Fair Board – Paul Norwine

Jasper County Redevelopment Commission – Stephanie Johnson and Calvin M. Illingworth

Kankakee Iroquois Regional Planning Commission – Andrew Andree

Property Tax Assessment Board of Appeals – Lester Moore

**REGULAR MEETING OF THE JASPER COUNTY COUNCIL  
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**BOARD APPOINTMENTS CONT'D:**

Wabash Valley Hospital Board – Rein Bontreger  
Rensselaer Public Library – Natalie Waling

**MEETING SCHEDULE:** Mr. DeVries made a motion to approve the Council's 2018 meeting schedule. Mr. Norwine seconded and the motion carried unanimously. The meeting schedule is as follows:

Tuesday, January 16  
Tuesday, February 20  
Tuesday, March 13  
Tuesday, April 17  
Tuesday, May 15  
Tuesday, June 19  
Tuesday, July 24 (Joint session at 6:00)  
Tuesday, August 21  
Tuesday, September 11  
Tuesday, October 16  
Tuesday, November 20 (Joint session at 6:00)  
Tuesday, December 18

**CITIZEN GREG DOBSON:** Mr. Dobson, owner of CRG Auto Repair, was present and expressed concerns over statements made by Sheriff Risner and Diane Birky. He questioned some of the things Sheriff Risner and Ms. Birky told the Council, stating that, for example, if Officers are being spat upon then battery charges should be filed against the offender and he has not seen these charges being filed. He stated that more questions need to be asked.

There being no further business, Mr. Risner made a motion to adjourn. Mr. Andree seconded and the motion carried unanimously.

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Rein O. Bontreger, President

ATTEST:

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Kimberly K. Grow, Auditor of Jasper County

